

CHAFEE IL NEWS BULLETIN

Moving Indiana Foster Youth Toward Permanency

November/December 2009

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Post-Secondary Education

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Education Information

The beginning of the school year has passed us recently, and most of our youth have settled back into the routine of the school day. Now is a great time to prepare for the next school year. Early applications are being accepted by universities and colleges. Students are studying hard for SAT and ACT tests. Scholarship deadlines are fast approaching. There are a large number of activities to prepare our youth for the transition into the next phase of education. There are also a large number of programs available to our youth to assist them with these activities; I have listed some examples below.

Twenty-First Century Scholars – www.scholars.in.gov

This program helps raise the educational aspirations of Indiana's low income youth. The program guarantees the cost of four years of undergraduate college tuition at any participating public Indiana college or university. All foster youth in school from 6th grade to 12th grade should have an application submitted to the Twenty-First Century Scholars program. If you have questions regarding assisting a foster youth apply for this program, please contact your Independent Living Specialist. Please use the website to find your local Twenty-First Century Scholars office, where you can seek additional information on activities for the youth.

Pick a Career – www.driveofyourlife.org

Drive of Your Life is a website produced by the Indiana Youth Institute. The site is a creative and fun way for middle and high school students to look into different careers.

Pick a College – www.collegeboard.com

There are many colleges and universities available to our youth inside and outside of Indiana. The number can cause many people to panic. There are websites that have tools to assist anyone in narrowing their choices to a more manageable number. College Board offers a searchable database which anyone can choose a few characteristics that they are looking for in a school. The database will narrow the list of colleges using choices like size of school, location, and choice of majors.

The College Board website also offers youth a chance to study for the SAT. It provides test questions and basic study skills to assist youth.



*Protecting our children,
families and future*

College Fairs - www.nacacnet.org

Another way to learn about the different schools is to attend a college fair. The National Association for College Admissions Counseling holds college fairs in different cities throughout the US in the fall and spring. The organization is holding a college fair in Indianapolis at the Convention Center on November 15. To attend the event, please register by visiting the above website.

SAT & ACT – www.collegeboard.com & www.actstudent.org

Most colleges and universities require all applicants to take either the SAT or ACT. These aptitude tests provide a standardized score that schools use to determine whether the student will be accepted. Both tests have websites that offer career and college planning as well as free test preparation materials. There are other organizations and companies that offer test preparation classes and study skills classes for a small or large fee.

FAFSA – www.fafsa.gov

All students who wish to use financial aid to help pay for the cost of post-secondary education must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. This application measures each student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This score is used to determine how much financial aid the student is eligible to receive through the Pell Grant and other federal and state funds. To see more information about the Pell Grant and the other programs please visit www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html. Indiana's deadline to be eligible for State grants is March 10th. See your school's financial aid office for other documents/information that might be required.

Comment [ah1]: We do not want to list the federal date because it could confuse staff...we want all to apply by IN's deadline.

Comment [ah2]: Schools cannot change the deadline for the FAFSA

College Goal Sunday – www.collegegoalsundayusa.org

Completing the FAFSA can be confusing and time-consuming for many people. That is why the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association created College Goal Sunday. This is a statewide volunteer program that provides free information and assistance to students and families who are applying for financial aid for post-secondary education. The volunteers help students and families complete the FAFSA. College Goal Sunday will be held at 36 different locations throughout Indiana from 2:00 to 4:00 on Sunday, February 21, 2010. Please visit the website for additional details and to find a location near you.

Comment [ah3]: In January, lets do a full article on the FAFSA...I do not support foster youth attending College Goal Sunday, because the facilitators are not trained in assisting foster youth complete the FAFSA and have given bad advice in the past...also lets do a full article on Twenty-First Century also...

Scholarships – www.fastweb.com & www.nextstudent.com

Besides grants and loans, scholarships are another popular way for students to pay for their education. Private scholarships are offered by a variety of sources, including alumni associations, trade organizations, and the schools themselves. Fastweb and NextStudent are two websites that offer a database of scholarships through which anyone can browse. They are free to use, but require prospective students to register with the site. Please be wary of any website that asks for a fee in order to browse their selection of scholarships. There are many false websites that ask for payment but do not deliver any credible resources.

ETV – www.statevoucher.org

The Education and Training Voucher program is offered through the Independent Living Program of the Department of Child Services. The program is available to any current or former foster youth who has turned or is expected to turn 18 while in a foster care placement. Youth who were adopted out of foster care after their 16th birthday are also eligible. ETV provides up to \$5000 per year to pursue post-secondary educational options. This fund can be used throughout the US. Please visit the website or contact your IL Specialist for more details.

Regional IL Meetings and Trainings for November and December			
Who	Where	When	Details
Christine Singleton If you would like to attend one of Christine's meetings or trainings, please contact her as space may be limited.	Region 7	November 12	Delaware County DCS Office 3600 W Kilgore Ave., Door 4, Muncie IL Meeting 1:30
	Region 11	November 17	Hamilton County Regional Conference Room 938 N Tenth St, Noblesville IL Meeting 10am
	Region 12	December 9	Wayne County DCS Office 50 S Second St, Richmond, IN IL Meeting 10am
	Region 6	January 12	White's Residential 5233 S 50 E, Wabash IL Meeting 10am
	Region 7	January 13	Delaware County DCS Office 3600 W Kilgore Ave., Door 4, Muncie IL Meeting 10am
	Region 4	January 26	Allen County DCS Office 201 E Rudisill Blvd, Suite 200, Fort Wayne IL Meeting 10am IL Policy Training 1:30pm
Skye Holman	Region 1	November 20	Lake County DCS Office 661 Broadway, Gary IL Meeting 10am
	Region 2	December 4	Porter County DCS Office 19 E Lincolnway, Valparaiso IL Meeting 10am
	Region 5	December 10	Tippecanoe County DCS Office 250 Main St, Suite 301, Lafayette IL Meeting 10am IL Policy Training 1:30
Scott Piller	Region 15	December 2	Ripley County DCS Office 515 S Tanglewood Rd, Versailles IL Meeting 9 – 11 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30
	Region 15	December 3	Jefferson County DCS Office 493 W Hutchinson Ln., Madison IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30
	Region 17	December 7	Southern Hills Counseling Center 480 Eversman Dr, Jasper IL Meeting 9 – 11 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30

	Region 18	December 9	Lifelong Learning Center 1092 Community Way, Scottsburg IL Meeting 9 – 11 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30
	Region 16	December 10	Vanderburgh County DCS Office 100 E Sycamore St, Evansville IL Meeting 9 – 11 IL Policy Training 1:30 – 4
		December 11	IL Policy Training 10 – 12:30 *All times for Region 16 are Evansville time.
	Region 14	December 15	Jackson County DCS Office 509 Burkart Blvd, Seymour IL Meeting 10 – 12 IL Policy Training 1:30 – 4
	Region 13	December 16	Monroe County DCS Office 1717 W 3 rd St, Bloomington IL Meeting 9 – 11
		December 17	IL Policy Training 9 – 11:30 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30
Region 10	December 18	Marion County DCS Office 4150 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis IL Meeting 9 – 11 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30	
	December 23	IL Policy Training 9 – 11:30 IL Policy Training 1 – 3:30	
<p>One representative from each contracted Chafee agency should be present at all IL Meetings in its contracted Region(s). We also request that at least one representative from each local DCS office is present. Juvenile Probation, CASA, GAL, LCPA, and residential staff are welcome to attend as well. IL Policy Trainings are offered twice per year. All FCM's and Supervisors are required to attend one IL Policy Training each year.</p>			

Comment [ah4]: Say something about this being a mandatory training for all FCM's at least once per year.